

REMARKS

Claims 3-6, 9-11, 13-17 and 28 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claim 3 is amended. The amendments introduce no new matter because they are supported at least by Figs. 8 and 12, as originally filed. A Request for Continued Examination is attached. Reconsideration of the application based on the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

The Office Action, in paragraph 5, rejects claims 3-6, 9, 10, 13 and 14 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,601,535 to Tanaka et al. (hereinafter "Tanaka"). The Office Action, in paragraph 15, rejects claims 11, 15-17 and 28 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Tanaka. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Tanaka teaches an optical coupling system between a semiconductor laser and an optical fiber comprising medium with a specified refractive index packed between a semiconductor laser and the end surface of an optical fiber (Abstract). With reference to, for example, Figs. 3(b) and 7(a), the Office Action asserts that Tanaka can reasonably be considered to teach the features recited in the pending claims. This analysis fails for the following reasons. Tanaka, at col. 4, line 58 - col. 5, line 7, indicates that the packing medium is a UV curable resin which is cured by UV rays emitted from the core of the optical fiber, thereby forming the cured region. In all of the embodiments disclosed in Tanaka, particularly as depicted in Figs. 1-7(a), the curable resin 3, which is considered by the Office Action to correspond to the connecting part recited in the pending claims, is varyingly thinned such that it cannot reasonably be considered to suggest having a maximum cross section that has a broader region than a connection region between the connecting part and the optical element, and a connection region between the connecting part and the optical fiber as is positively recited, among other features, in independent claim 3.

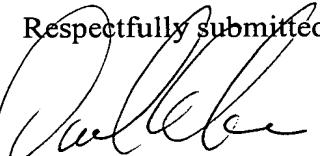
Claim 3 recites, among other features, a connecting part that joins the optical surface and only the exposed surface of the core of the optical fiber, the connecting part having a maximum cross section that has a broader region than (1) a connection region between the connecting part and the optical element and (2) a connection region between the connecting part and the optical fiber.

For at least the above reason, Tanaka cannot reasonably be considered teach, or even to have suggested, the combination of all of the features positively recited in independent claim 3. Further, claims 4-6, 9-11, 13-17 and 28 are also neither taught, nor would be they have been suggested, by Tanaka for at least the respective dependence of these claims directly or indirectly on an allowable independent claim 3, as well as for the separately patentable subject matter that each of these claims recites.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of claims 3-6, 9-11, 13-17 and 28 under 35 U.S.C. §§102(b) or 103(a), as being anticipated by, or unpatentable over, Tanaka are respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 3-6, 9-11, 13-17 and 28 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's undersigned representative at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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Attachment:
Request for Continued Examination

JAO:DAT/cfr

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